

Jagham language

The **Jagham language**, *Ejagham*, also known as **Ekoi**, is an Ekoid language of Nigeria and Cameroon spoken by the Ekoi people.

The Ekoi are one of several peoples who use Nsibidi ideographs, and may be the ones that created them.

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Dialects

Ekoi is dialectally diverse. The dialects of Ejagham are divided into Western and Eastern groups:

- Western varieties include Bendeghe, Northern and Southern Etung, Ekwe and Akamkpa-Ejagham;
- Eastern varieties include Keaka and Obang.^[3]

Blench (2019) also lists Ekin as an Ejagham dialect.^[4]

Morphology

Ekoi has the following noun classes, listed here with their Bantu equivalents. Watters (1981) says there are fewer than in Bantu because of mergers (class 4 into 3, 7 into 6, etc.), though Blench notes that there is no reason to think that the common ancestral language had as many noun classes as proto-Bantu.

Noun class Prefix Concord

1	N-	w, ɲ
2	a-	b
3	N-	m
5	ε-	j
6	a-	m
8	bi-	b
9	N-	j, ɲ

Ekoi	
Ejagham	
Native to	Nigeria, Cameroon
Ethnicity	Ekoi people
Native speakers	120,000 (2000) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Volta-Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ekoid–Mbe<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ekoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ekoi</div>
Dialects	<div>Bendeghe<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern EtungSouthern EtungEkweAkamkpa-EjaghamKeakaObang</div>
Writing system	Latin script
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	etu
Glottolog	<div>ejag1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ejag1239)^[2]</div>

14	ɔ-	b
19	i-	f

('N' stands for a homorganic nasal. 'j' is "y".)

References

1. Ekoi (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/etu/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ejagham" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ejag1239>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Blench, Roger. "Ekoid: Bantoid languages of the Nigeria-Cameroun borderland" (<http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/Bantoid/Ekoid/Comparative%20Ekoid.pdf>) (PDF). p. 1.
4. Blench, Roger (2019). *An Atlas of Nigerian Languages* (4th ed.). Cambridge: Kay Williamson Educational Foundation.

External links

- [Ejagham basic lexicon at the Global Lexicostatistical Database](http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\bco\eko&limit=-1) (<http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\bco\eko&limit=-1>)

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